6/1/88 Let

Seeks truth about Fort Detrick research

Recently two articles were printed in your newspaper about Fort Detrick. The content of these consisted of the fact that a study has been done to support Fort Detrick's biological warfare research program. In other words, the army is not going to admit that there is reason for great concern to the population of Frederick County.

The most recent article indicated there will be a meeting at the Rosslyn West Park Hotel, 1900 Fort Myer Dr., Arlington, Va., on July 25 at 8 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. for those wishing to comment on the study. Also, one may call 301-663-2732 to reserve a time.

After having called this number, I learned that one may send in a written comment which will be read at that meeting, if unable to attend.

I believe there is much that the public needs to know before making any kind of comment, such as the contents of the study. Just what was/is the biological research that is being done at Fort Detrick and exactly how hazardous is it? Shouldn't an independent study be done? Also, would it not be more convenient to have a meeting for public comment closer to the facility so that those with health problems as a result of working there might attend?

If you think my questions and suggestions are far fetched, I would like to bring to your attention an article from the *Detroit News* claiming the AIDS virus was created in a lab at Fort Detrick.

The article indicates that a 1972 document of the World Health Organization shows authorization for the manufacture of an AIDS-like virus. The request for the virus was made in 1972 and shortly afterward, AIDS appeared in Africa, possibly as a result of a contaminated vaccine used by the World Health Organization to wipe out smallpox in Africa.

Need I say more?

You now have a responsibility to the residents of this county to investigate and inform us of the truth about Fort Detrick.

MARY ANN PUTMAN,
Frederick